

Appl. No. 10/516,363
In re Bittner et al.
Reply to Office Action of June 23, 2006

for any necessary extensions or other relief associated with this filing and authorizes the commissioner to charge applicant's representative's charge account 50-0548 for any deficiencies.

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 34, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~According to the invention, this object is achieved with regard to the clutch by the features of claim 1 and with regard to the method by the features of claims 9 and 10. Further, particularly advantageous, refinements of the invention are disclosed by the subclaims.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

fig. 2 shows a further exemplary embodiment, corresponding to fig. 1, of a clutch according to the invention with spring assistance[[]], and

Please add the following new paragraph after the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 34, as follows:

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fig. 3 is a schematic view of a drive train connecting a drive motor and a vehicle door selectively driven by the drive motor.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In fig. 1, an electromagnetic frictionally engaged clutch is designated by 1, being arranged within a drive train between a drive motor 17, ~~not~~ illustrated in fig. 3, and a tailgate, or a vehicle door 18, ~~likewise not also~~ illustrated in fig. 3, of a motor vehicle.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 35, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The clutch 1 comprises a rotor part 4 which is provided with a friction lining 2 and firmly connected to a first shaft 3 so as to rotate with it (for example the drive shaft connected to the drive motor 17), which, on its side facing away from the friction lining 2, has a recess 5 in which an electric coil 6 is mounted fixed to the housing. The coil 6 is connected to an electric control device 8 by electric leads 7.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Arranged on the rotor part 4, parallel to the electric coil 6, is a permanent magnet 15, which produces a magnetic field strength which is selected such that, when the coil 6 is not energized, the armature disk 10 is pressed against the friction lining 2 with a predefined force and the tailgate 18 remains in the respective position assumed when the clutch 1 is disengaged, on account of the frictional connection. However, it should be possible for the frictional connection between armature disk 10 and friction lining 2 to be overcome during the subsequent manual operation (emergency operation) of the tailgate 18.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 36, with the following rewritten paragraph:

If the tailgate 18 (~~not~~ illustrated in fig. 3) is to be opened, for example, the electric coil 6 is energized by the control device 8. As a result, the magnetic force of the permanent magnet 15 is increased. If the first shaft 3 is then driven by ~~[[a]]~~ the drive motor 17, then the second shaft 9 is

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carried along by the clutch 1 and operates the tailgate 18, ~~not~~ illustrated in fig. 3.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

If, before reaching its end position, the tailgate 18 is to be stopped in a predefined angular position, then the supply of current to the coil 6 is interrupted by the control device 8. On account of the magnetic force of the permanent magnet 15, a frictional torque remains between the friction lining 2 and the armature disk 10 and ensures that the tailgate 18 remains securely in its assumed position. By means of appropriately powerful manual operation of the tailgate 18, the latter can then be closed again or opened completely (emergency operation, for example in the event of failure of the power supply).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

List of designations

- 1 Clutch
- 2 Friction lining

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- 3 First shaft
- 4 Rotor part
- 5 Recess
- 6 Electric coil, coil
- 7 Electric lead
- 8 Control device
- 9 Second shaft
- 10 Armature disk
- 11 Armature disk carrier
- 12 Guide part
- 13 Recess
- 14 Sealing lip
- 15 Permanent magnet

- 17 Drive motor
- 18 Vehicle door, such as a tailgate
- 20 Clutch
- 21 Resilient element, compression spring
- 22 Blind drilled hole